

July 27, 2015 CDC Ebola Response Update

[Announcer] *This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[Narrator] The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history and has been one of the most challenging global public health emergencies in recent times. With more than 27,000 reported Ebola cases and more than 11,000 deaths over the span of a year, this epidemic has resulted in more than 10 times as many cases as all previous Ebola outbreaks combined.

July 9, 2015, marked the one-year anniversary of CDC's official emergency activation for Ebola. Since the outbreak began, CDC has sent more than 1,200 people to Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and surrounding countries, while thousands more have worked on the response from CDC's Atlanta headquarters, other CDC campuses, and in hospitals, labs, and airports across the U.S. Dr. Inger Damon served as the incident manager during the height of the response.

[Dr. Damon] We really learned from the people who went overseas and what they brought back and what they were able to contribute in the three countries, and then also in countries where disease was introduced. The need to rapidly respond was really paramount and we needed to have creative and innovative strategies to do that. And I think that's one of the overarching lessons that we learned.

[Narrator] These experts test blood samples in field labs, travel remote trails and rivers to track case contacts, develop targeted communication materials, and teach Ebola prevention strategies in local communities. They also protect borders by screening and monitoring travelers, and provide training to strengthen hospital infection control practices. Dr. Jennifer McQuiston, deployed as a health communicator to Sierra Leone.

[Dr. McQuiston] One of the communication barriers going into a situation like this in a country like Sierra Leone, it isn't just literacy challenges, it's cultural barriers and understanding what people there think of as normal. And I started thinking about how to make the communications campaign be what *they* needed, rather than what *I* thought they needed.

[Narrator] CDC disease detectives continue their work today in the three most affected countries—Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. While tremendous headway has been made in slowing this epidemic, there is still work to be done, because a disease threat *anywhere* is a disease threat *everywhere*. The Ebola epidemic reminds us how easily infectious diseases can cross borders—across land, rivers, and even oceans. On May 9, 2015, the World Health Organization declared the end of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, and the number of new cases in Guinea and Sierra Leone has decreased dramatically. However, recent reports of new cases in Liberia confirm that the global public health community can't let down its guard. The situation in Liberia shows how difficult it is to stay at zero cases. We will remain vigilant and committed to protect not only the residents of countries where outbreaks occur, but also their neighbors around the world. CDC director, Dr. Tom Frieden, has led the agency through this unprecedented response.

[Dr. Frieden] This has been the most intensive, extensive response in CDC history. We really show the best of public health—technical rigor, human kindness, caring, dedication, and the basic approach of get the work done by whatever means necessary. We've made great progress

but we can't let down our guard. There will continue to be cases and clusters of Ebola, but an epidemic of the kind we've had for the past year never has to happen again.

[Narrator] To read the full Road to Zero report that documents the efforts of CDC and its partners in fighting the epidemic, including stories and photos of the people working to stop it, visit cdc.gov/about/ebola.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.